

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell comprising:  
  
an ~~a~~ first planar manifold defined between a first gas-impermeable element and an active element;  
  
a plurality of spacers disposed ~~in~~ within said first planar manifold, each of said plurality of said spacers and said first gas-impermeable element having an orifice formed therethrough;  
  
a second planar manifold defined between said first gas-impermeable element and a second gas-impermeable element in a subjacent relationship to said first planar manifold;  
  
wherein ~~a~~ an ultra-short flow path is established from said ~~first~~ second planar manifold through said orifice over said active element to said ~~second~~ first planar manifold.
2. (Original) The fuel cell of claim 1 further comprising an electrically conductive path extending through the fuel cell to provide continuity from said active element, through said plurality of spacers and said first gas-impermeable element to said second gas-impermeable element.

3. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 2 wherein said plurality of spacers are electrically conductive so as to establish said electrically conductive path.

4. (Original) The fuel cell of claim 3 wherein said electrically conductive path further comprises an electrically conductive filler disposed in a via formed through said first gas-impermeable element.

5. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 1 wherein said first gas-impermeable element is disposed in a substantially parallel spaced relation to said second gas-impermeable element such that said first planar manifold is substantially parallel with said second planar manifold.

6. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 1 further comprising a second plurality of spacer disposed ~~in~~ within said second planar manifold.

7. (Original) The fuel cell of claim 1 wherein said plurality of spacers comprise a nested array of spacers disposed on said first gas-impermeable element.

8. (Original) The fuel cell of claim 1 further comprising a frame interposed between said first gas-impermeable element and said second gas-impermeable element.

9. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 1 wherein said plurality of spacers are equidistantly spaced on said first gas-impermeable element within said first planar manifold.

Claims 10-49 (Cancelled)